

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 03714 231634Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----089711 231635Z /64

O R 231605Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1229
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T TUNIS 3714

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1, -2
TAGS: UNSC, PEPR, PBOR, XF, SY, LE, IS, TS
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: DEMARCHE IN SUPPORT OF UNIFIL

REF: (A) STATE 126253 (B) STATE 127546

1. I SPENT A HALF HOUR THIS MORNING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMED FITOURI IN AN EFFORT TO ENLIST TUNISIA'S INTER-CESSION WITH YASSIR ARAFAT TO RESTRAIN PALESTINIANS UNDER HIS CONTROL FROM INFILTRATION THROUGH UNIFIL LINES. I MADE ALL THE POINTS SUGGESTED IN STATE 126253. IN ADDITION I INCLUDED OTHER POINTS SUGGESTED IN STATE 127546.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND THEN REPEATED BACK TO ME THE MAJOR POINTS I HAD MADE. HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY INFLUENCED BY THE STRESS I LAID ON THE NECESSITY OF SUPPORTING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AND RESPECT FOR THE UN PEACEKEEPING MACHINERY AGAINST ITS POSSIBLE FUTURE USEFULNESS IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA.

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AS A MEMBER OF BOTH THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THE OAU, HE SAID, THE GOT COULD READILY APPRECIATE THE WISDOM OF OUR POSITION. HE SEEMED NOT TO HAVE REALIZED, HOWEVER, THAT ISRAELIS HAD ALREADY FIXED A DATE FOR THEIR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNIFIL-OCCUPIED ZONE.

3. FITOURI TOLD ME HE WOULD RELAY US THINKING TO HIS

COLLEAGUES AND DISCUSS WHAT GOT MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO, ALTHOUGH HE AVOIDED MAKING ANY FURTHER COMMITMENT. HE ASKED WHETHER I KNEW WHEN FURTHER DIRECT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI CONTACTS WOULD RESUME. I TOLD HIM I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WOULD SEE ACTIVITY TOWARD THAT END RESUME SHORTLY, ALTHOUGH I WAS UNINFORMED ON FUTURE TIMING. HE ASSURED ME GOT CONTINUED TO FAVOR ALL MOVES WHICH WOULD KEEP THE PEACE IN THE MIDEAST AND FELT PEACE LARGELY DEPENDED ON EVERYONE'S NOT LOSING SIGHT OF THE RIGHTS AND JUST DEMANDS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. AFTER DISCUSSING LEBANESE SECURITY SITUATION, FITOURI EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT LEBANESE SECURITY FORCES WOULD SOON BE WELL ENOUGH ORGANIZED TO PROTECT THEIR OWN FRONTIERS.

4. AMERICAN DESK OFFICER, BEN REDJEB, WHO WAS PRESENT AS NOTE-TAKER, WHILE ACCOMPANYING ME TO THE MINISTRY'S MAIN DOOR, TOLD ME HE HAD HEARD YESTERDAY AN ARAFAT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE PLO PLANNED TO INSTITUTE A SERIES OF "TRIBUNALS" IN SOUTH LEBANON WHOSE MISSION WOULD BE TO PREVENT INFILTRATION AND PUNISH VIOLATORS OF UNIFIL LINES.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TUNIS03714
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALSO X1
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780216-0982
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780526/aaaaawgq.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 84734698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 126253, 78 STATE 127546
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2596044
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON: DEMARCHE IN SUPPORT OF UNIFIL
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MOPS, XF, SY, LE, IS, TS, UNSC, UNIFIL
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/84734698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014